



UU Matters

(April 2012: Vol. 7 No. 4)

The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

~A Welcoming Congregation~

1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 (618) 241-9644

Sunday Morning Service Schedule

(All Sunday morning services are held at 10:00 a.m. at the Fellowship building and are open to the public. If you are interested in leading a service or delivering a sermon, please use the Service Sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.)

1 April: Mike DeVilbiss will explore *Hate Week*. Remember George Orwell's 1984.

8 April: Debbie Czarnopys White will lead a service focusing on *Springtime Celebration*. Springtime brings many spiritual opportunities for celebration, practices older than Christianity which contributed to present day joyful occasions. Celebrate one or more or all!

15 April: Shared Service, third Sunday of each month. in our *Shared Service* members select parts of the service to present. If you have music, art, special reading, thought or a poem to share, please do! Shared services have come to life with a diverse group participating. Cards will be available on April 1 and April 8. Please join us.

22 April: As many people celebrate Earth Day, we will discuss the religious aspects of Earth Centered Spirituality and some of the basic beliefs of Pagans, Wiccans, and Druids in this service, "Paganism- The Basics," led by Carrie and Christopher Vine from Carbondale.

29 April: Donna Beaumont will lead this service focusing on *Peace*, on the anniversary of April 29, 1949, when the "Peace" rose was introduced to America, and the American Rose Society sent each of the 49 delegations at the inaugural meeting of the United Nations a single, long-stemmed 'Peace' rose with the note, "We hope the 'Peace' rose will influence men's thoughts for everlasting world peace."

Other Upcoming Events

(All Upcoming Events, held at the Fellowship Building, are open to the public.)

4 April: Board of Trustees Meeting
-First Wednesday of Each Month-
-6:30 p.m.-

Meeting is open to anyone interested in MVUUF business. **Board of Trustees:** Donna Beaumont, co-chair; Debbie Czarnopys-White, co-chair; Sam Smith, co-chair; Gail DeVilbiss, secretary; and Angela Czapiewski, treasurer.

6 April: Drum Circle
-First Friday of Each Month-
-7:00 p.m.-

Bring a drum or other percussion instrument to play at this relaxed and informal drum circle, or simply come to listen and enjoy the good vibrations.

8 April: Buddhist Meditation
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-9:00 a.m.-

Buddhist meditation group meets downstairs. One need not be Buddhist to attend.

8 April: Social Justice Interest Group
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-11:30 a.m. following Social Hour-

Learn about, discuss, and take action on social justice concerns-- issues that affect local, national, and global communities. Our group seeks projects and issues to take action on as individuals, as a group, and/or as a congregation.

12 April: *Spirit of Improvisation* Drum Circle

This event aims to provide a venue for improvising musicians, moving from a drum circle to smaller circles for musical improvisation. Bring your instrument of choice, and a drum or shaker, or use the ones on hand at the Fellowship (limited).

Improvising vocalists or poets are also welcome. Perform, listen, and network!

Coordinated by Sam Smith.

25 April: Meditation Group
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month-
-6:00 p.m.-

**Social
Justice
Interest
Group**



Movie Night

Friday, **March 30**, 6:30 pm at the Fellowship, showing a documentary to learn more about hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), a process of drilling for natural gas, that Vito Mastrangelo introduced as part of the March 25 service, *Justice is the Human Right to Water*.

Vito will moderate an Open Minds discussion following the video. Refreshments will be served.

**"Paganism — The Basics"
Sunday, April 22, 2012
Service**

Carrie and Christopher Vine from Carbondale will present "Paganism- The Basics." As many people celebrate Earth Day, the Vines will discuss the religious aspects of Earth Centered Spirituality and some of the basic beliefs of Pagans, Wiccans, and Druids. They currently run the Earth Spirituality Circle at the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship.

Before coming to Carbondale , Carrie and Christopher led a very active Pagan Circle in El Paso, Texas. They have many years of Pagan leadership experience in West Texas and New Mexico contributing to Ardantane Pagan Learning Center (www.ardantane.org) and leading other activities in the El Paso area. Carrie and Christopher were both elevated to 3rd Degree by Amber K and Azrael Aryn K in October of 2007.

Sunday May 20, 2012

MVUUF Annual Membership Meeting

The annual Membership meeting will be held following the May 20 service. Everyone is welcome, and everyone is encouraged to attend. However, you must be a member to vote. To be a voting member, you must have completed a membership application by the end of February.

Fair Trade Buyer's Club

The opportunity arises once again to purchase Fair Trade coffees, chocolates and teas from Equal Exchange. A new price list will be available on Sunday, April 1, 2012. Place orders with Gail by Sunday, April 22nd. Orders will be available for pickup the week of May 1st.

Chocolate lovers: Some chocolates still are available downstairs for Easter Baskets. Due to the heat, we will not be ordering chocolates until October, which is skipping the next two orders .

Questions or comments?

Project coordinator is Gail DeVilbiss at 618-533-4705 or vegaddict1@aol.com.



Sound System Thanks

The Board of Trustees would like to thank the very generous individuals (all of whom choose to remain anonymous – you know who you are!) who gave of their time, treasure, and talent to make possible the purchase and set up of the new sound system. A Fender Passport 500 Pro audio system, speaker stands, and a wireless microphone system is now in place. While we are still learning to use the equipment most effectively, the benefits of this amplification system are already apparent. Thanks and thanks again.

Planting and Tending Thanks



Paul and Eric worked a number of hours after services in March, cleaning up leaves and debris from the Fellowship yard, and they planted small hostas along the hedge on the west side. It's looking good! For keeping the grounds mowed and trimmed all year, they indeed deserve a big "Thank you!"

Member News

MVUUF member Adam E. Stone's spoken-word ballet "A Life Unhappening," which examines the impact of Alzheimer's disease on three generations of one woman's family, will be performed three times in our area.

A special preview performance will be held at Shryock Auditorium in Carbondale, Illinois on **Friday, May 4, 2012** at 7:30 pm, with proceeds from the performance to benefit the Greater Illinois Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The World Premiere performance will be held at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center in St. Louis, Missouri on Friday, **May 11, 2012**. A wine and cheese reception will begin at 6:30 pm, with the performance to follow at 7:30 pm. The performance will be broadcast live by the Higher Education Channel (HEC-TV) and streamed live on their website. A Mother's Day performance will be held at the Donald C. Bedell Performance Hall in Cape Girardeau, Missouri on **Sunday, May 13, 2012** at 2:30 pm. Proceeds from the latter two shows will benefit the St. Louis Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Each performance will be followed by an intermission, then a question and answer session with representatives of the Alzheimer's Association and key players in the ballet. An American Sign Language interpreter will be provided at each performance. Additional information about the ballet, including ticketing information, is available at Adam's website: www.adamestone.com.

Let your bookcases and your shelves be your gardens and your pleasure-grounds. Pluck the fruit that grows therein, gather the roses, the spices, and the myrrh.

-Judah Ibn Tibbon



Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands

The UUSC Link

The UUSC is an independent human rights organization, supported through the volunteer efforts and financial gifts of its members and supporters, and linked to UU congregations through local representatives. The four focus areas of its work include: *Rights in Humanitarian Crises; Civil Liberties; Economic Justice; and Environmental Justice.*

Our service on March 4 focused on International Women's Day, and the topic of women's rights. Twenty post cards addressed to Senator John Kerry requesting that he take action to move the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women to the Senate floor for ratification were distributed for signatures of friends and members of our Fellowship. Thank you for helping to move UUSC toward the goal of placing 3,000 signed postcards on Senator Kerry's desk.

Members of the Social Justice Interest Group led our *Justice Sunday* service on March 25. This year's theme is "Justice is the Human Right to Water," and we only scratched the surface of this urgent topic. A movie night is planned for Friday, March 30, at the Fellowship, to learn more about the topic of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") which Vito Mastrangelo introduced as part of the service. Vito will host the video and facilitate the discussion. Thanks to all who contributed to the special offering to UUSC.

Gail DeVilbiss continues to lead the Fair Trade Buying Club, and will be taking orders for delicious coffee, tea, and chocolate fair trade products in April for an early May delivery.

Recently there have been changes that weaken Fair Trade standards; for example, a new initiative seeks to allow large plantation coffee and cacao into the Fair Trade system. UUSC believes these changes threaten small farmer co-operatives' existence and the Fair Trade movement itself. Fair Trade co-ops are a vehicle for economic empowerment and social change, allowing farmers market access and control over their own lands and businesses. UUSC's partner Equal Exchange urges you to support small farmers by signing their Authentic Fair Trade Petition. (http://actnow.uusc.org/site/PageNavigator/Equal_Exchange_Statement_of_Support.html)

You support Fair Trade every time you make a purchase through Mt. Vernon UUF's buying club. You are part of the UUSC Coffee Project supporting small farmers every time you enjoy a delicious cup of coffee with friends during our social hour!

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the *Opportunities for Service* bulletin board, visit the UUSC website at www.uusc.org, attend a meeting of the Social Justice Interest Group each second Sunday after social hour, and watch this space at *UUMatters*.

Donna Beaumont, *UUSC Local Representative*

Other UU Matters

Newspaper Announcement Submission Guidelines

Submissions for the Friday "church news" sections of both the Sentinel and the Register-News are due on the Wednesday morning prior to the service or event. If you are leading a service, or planning a Fellowship event, please email your information, for the time being, to Gail at: vegaddict1 (at) aol.com by (at the very latest) 8 a.m., on the prior Wednesday. It need not be complicated--a few sentences would be fine. (Also, please let Gail know if you do not wish for your name to be included in the press release.) Many new attendees have told us that they found MVUUF through these articles in the newspaper, so this is an important way to let people know what is happening.

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Please email submissions for *UU Matters* to marji.gibbs(at)gmail.com. Submissions for the May edition are due by **Wednesday, April 24**.

If you are leading a service or speaking in a service, please submit the title, date, and synopsis of your service/sermon. If you are coordinating a special meeting or event that is open to the public, please submit the date and description of the event.

UU Matters is an opportunity for you to share your personal work relating to Unitarian Universalism, to the MVUUF congregation, or to liberal religious thought in general. Please consider sharing your photography, poems, short stories, "deep thoughts," favorite quotes, etc.

Considering MVUUF membership? Please ask a Board of Trustees member for a prospective member folder, or a membership form.



Treasury Matters

Financial contributions may be made in the offering basket located on the round table at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to mail contributions instead of putting them in the offering basket, you may mail them to: MVUUF, 1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL, 62864. Please make checks payable to MVUUF. If you would like your offering to be used for a specific purpose, please clearly mark that purpose on the memo line on your check or on the envelope in which you place your offering.

Library Matters

The MVUUF Library catalogue is available online. The catalog can be accessed at www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF.

Contact Information

For more information about the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship or to be added to our mailing list, please contact us in one of the following ways:

1. By Mail: The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1600 Isabella Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
2. By Phone: (618) 241-9644. Please leave a voice mail message.
3. By visiting our website: www.mtvernonuuf.org
4. By emailing our Fellowship: information@mtvernonuuf.org

